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Band on the run over letter in rape case. 2

Carmelo - Kevin Love trade is intriguing. 30

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Norman Seabrook was charged in a bribery scheme involving union retirement and operating funds. He received a kickback of \$60,000 cash in a bag. 6

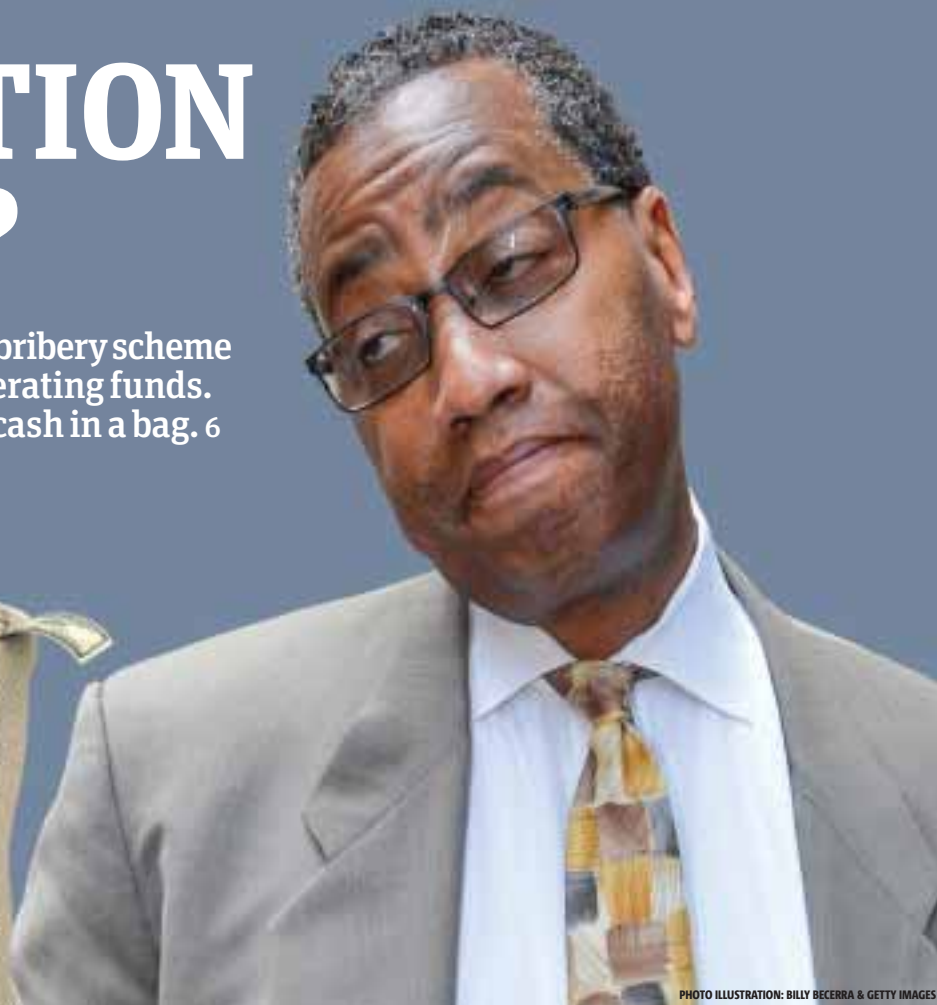


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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SHARAPOVA BANNED FOR TWO YEARS BY ITF

The career of Russian former world number one Maria Sharapova was in tatters on Wednesday after she was given a two-year ban by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) following her positive test for the banned drug meldonium at this year's Australian Open. In a statement the ITF said the 29-year-old five-times grand slam champion's ban would be backdated to Jan. 26 this year, meaning her results and prize money from the Australian Open, where she reached the quarterfinals, would be canceled out. Sharapova said she would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), describing the punishment as "unfairly harsh." She said an independent tribunal in London on May 18-19 had found that she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules. **REUTERS**



TWO SC AIR NATIONAL GUARD PILOTS SURVIVE MID-AIR CRASH

Two South Carolina Air National Guard fighter pilots ejected safely from their jets after they collided over eastern Georgia while performing routine night operations, the National Guard said on Wednesday. The two F-16 fighter jets collided at about 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday over a military area in Jefferson County, Georgia, and then crashed, the South Carolina Air National Guard said on Facebook. The pilots of each of the single-seat aircraft ejected safely after the mid-air collision, and there were no reports of injuries on the ground, the guard said. The incident comes five days after a Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron pilot was killed when his F/A-18 crashed in Smyrna, Tennessee, and an Air Force Thunderbirds squadron pilot was unhurt when his F-16 jet crashed in Colorado. **REUTERS**

MORGAN STANLEY PAYS \$1M SEC FINE OVER HACKED CUSTOMER DATA

Morgan Stanley agreed to pay a \$1 million fine to settle U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission charges that security shortfalls enabled a former employee to transfer data regarding roughly 730,000 accounts to his personal server, which was later hacked. The former employee, financial adviser Galen Marsh, accepted a five-year securities industry ban to settle related civil charges. Marsh was sentenced last December to three years probation after pleading guilty over the data breach. Morgan Stanley did not admit or deny wrongdoing in agreeing to settle with the SEC. **REUTERS**



Band's New York City gigs canceled after drummer supports rapist friend in court

Brooklyn-based Northside Festival responds to calls to drop Good English over letter to judge.

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The band Good English has been axed from Brooklyn-based Northside Festival after one of its members came out in support of the former Stanford swimmer convicted of raping an unconscious woman.

Leslie Rasmussen, drummer in the Dayton, Ohio-based trio, along with her two sisters, is a childhood friend of Brock Turner. She wrote a letter to Judge Aaron Persky defending her friend, who was recently sentenced to six months in prison.

The judge who issued the light sentence has been condemned by victims advocates, as has Turner's father, who has said his son has paid a steep price for what he referred to as "20 minutes of action."

"Brock is not a monster," Rasmussen wrote in her letter to the judge. "He is the furthest thing from anything like that, and I have known him much longer than the people involved in this case. I don't think it's fair to base the fate of the next ten + [sic] years of his life on the decisions of a girl who doesn't remember anything but the amount she drank to press charges against him."

Since her letter was posted in full online, several venues where Good English was scheduled to perform have canceled their shows. Critics are calling Rasmussen a "victim shamer," a "rape sympathizer," "rape apol-



Dayton, Ohio-based band Good English, as seen on their self-titled second album cover **GOOD ENGLISH/ALBUM COVER SCREENSHOT**

"I apologize for anything my statement has done to suggest that I don't feel enormous sympathy for the victim and her suffering."

Rasmussen

ogist," "rapesplainer" and "stupid."

Fans took to Northside's Facebook page, sending a flurry of angry posts urging the festival to drop the band.

Organizers of the Northside Festival listened to their fans, tweeting Tuesday morning that Good English was scrapped from the lineup.

Gothamist reported later Tuesday that four other venues set to host the band cancelled their shows. Industry City Distillery and Bar Matchless made public announcements condemning the band and rape culture; The Rock Shop and Gold Sounds also removed the band from their lineups.

Metro reached out to the four venues, but were unable to obtain a comment.

Rasmussen released a

statement on her Good English's Facebook page, which, along with the band's website, has now been deleted.

"I understand that this appeal has now provided an opportunity for people to misconstrue my ideas into a distortion that suggests I sympathize with sex offenses and those who commit them or that I blame the victim involved," Rasmussen wrote in the post, which was accessed through Google's web cache. "Nothing could be farther from the truth, and I apologize for anything my statement has done to suggest that I don't feel enormous sympathy for the victim and her suffering."

She added that Turner's character was "seriously affected" by his alcohol consumption, and urged the court to take

that into account.

But critics are blasting Turner's paltry six-month sentence as being too lenient for his January 2015 assault on an unidentified woman.

Prosecutors had asked that the defendant be sentenced to six years. Persky said that a stricter sentence would have a "severe impact" on Turner, who was a swimmer at Stanford University at the time.

Turner will be a lifetime member of the sex offender registry.

Turner grew up outside Dayton, Ohio. He graduated from Oakwood High School in 2014. According to the Dayton Daily News, Rasmussen graduated the same year.

Rasmussen and her two sisters, Elizabeth and Celia, formed Good English in 2008, releasing their sophomore album in March 2016 with Behind the Curtain Media company.

Behind the Curtain did not immediately respond to a request for comment as to whether they still represent the group.

Infectious magazine described Good English as a "unique blend of grunge, garage-pop, and punk-influenced rock 'n' roll that sounds like the love child of Nancy Sinatra and Black Sabbath."

The Revue said the group "could very well be the heirs to the riot grrrl legends," saying they're a big part of the Buckeye State's "rock revival."

Good English has an upcoming concert on June 18 at the Beachland Ballroom & Tavern in Cleveland.

Metro reached out to Beachland to inquire if there were plans to cancel the group's concert. An employee said the venue wasn't aware of the outrage against the group in New York.

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Whatever you desire can be delivered — for a price

A variety of food, merchandise and services available to city dwellers makes it tempting to never go outside.



ALAN KRAWITZ
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letters@metro.us

Back in the day, getting pizza, Chinese food or even clean laundry delivered to your door was considered an added benefit, even a luxury.

Today, delivery of a vast array of items from prepared meals and desserts, alcoholic beverages, camping gear and massages to almost everything in between is now all but expected.

The recent expansion of Amazon's restaurant delivery service to include more than 350 restaurants in New York City merely scratches the surface when it comes to the delivery of unique and sometimes off-beat goods and services to residents of the city that never sleeps.



Once considered a perk of city living, deliveries have now become a necessity of life. ISTOCK

Queens

In Queens, you needn't risk trying your luck at a seedy, storefront massage parlor. You can let the massage come to you with soothe.com, an on-demand massage app that lets busy New Yorkers book Swedish, deep tissue, prenatal or sports massages from licensed and vetted masseuses in the privacy of their home or hotel room — in as little as an hour. The rates vary according to time but start at around \$99 and the tip is included.

Brooklyn

For Brooklynites who pine for the great outdoors yet lack the time to find and buy or rent the latest sports gear, Gear To Go Outfitters, based in Park Slope, may be just the thing. Gear To Go delivers hik-

"It's a consequence of a technologically dependent society. As a result, we don't have to talk with anyone or see anyone. It began with email, progressed to texting and all sorts of other apps."

Helmreich

ing and camping gear, including rental gear, direct to people's doors in NYC within 24-48 hours. They even offer guided, full-service hiking and backpacking trips to places near, such as the Berkshires or as far as Iceland and Norway.

You want it? You got it

As has long been the case in Manhattan, almost anything can be delivered for a price.

One such service, goPuff, is taking delivery to extremes by promising to replace convenience stores by delivering "Thousands of products at your fingertips in 30 minutes — all night long."

In addition to the 3,000-plus typical convenience store items — such as ice cream, snacks and munchies — alcohol, condoms and other "necessities" one might need in the wee hours are available. The com-

pany delivers products in 30 minutes or less to your door 24/7, for a flat \$1.95 delivery charge.

At the moment, the service is available in Manhattan and operates from 12 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. and 24/7 in Philadelphia.

Or, maybe you're in the mood for some red velvet cupcakes?

No problem. Red Velvet NYC, which allows city residents to whip up a gourmet dessert in a flash, has you covered. The company delivers a baking kit within an hour with all the pre-measured ingredients and recipe to make signature red velvet cupcakes utilizing a foolproof recipe that will make almost anyone look like a "Cake Boss" contestant.

With so many different goods and services available for delivery almost at any time of day or night, it's little



Amazon recently expanded its delivery services in the city. GETTY IMAGES

wonder that some city residents never leave their apartments.

"It's a consequence of a technologically dependent society," says Bill Helmreich, professor of sociology at the City College of New York. "As a result, we don't have to talk with anyone or see anyone. It began with email, progressed to texting and all sorts of other apps."

Helmreich believes

that this move to ever-expanding delivery services may only be fueling some people's social phobias.

"...The goal is to reduce social interaction and ordering in is just another manifestation of this pattern," Helmreich says. "The amount of phones calls people receive has gone down by 90 percent... Kids don't go through stores anymore, they're all on their computers."



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Head of correction officers' union charged with fraud, conspiracy

Correction Officers' Benevolent Association President Norman Seabrook was arrested on fraud charges in the latest round of fallout in the corruption investigation.

The union leader for New York City's prison guards and a hedge fund financier were charged on Wednesday with orchestrating a bribery scheme involving union retirement and operating funds in a case stemming from a sprawling federal corruption probe.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Norman Seabrook, the politically influential president of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association, and Murray Huberfeld early on Wednesday.

According to a criminal complaint, Seabrook invested \$20 million of union money in 2014 in New York-based Platinum Partners in exchange for kickbacks from Huberfeld, who worked at the firm. The men were charged with

honest services fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud.

The case is the first major prosecution to emerge from several overlapping state and federal corruption probes that are examining New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's fundraising practices, among other avenues of inquiry.

The unfolding scandal has proven to be a major distraction for de Blasio, who will be up for re-election in 2017 and has seen numerous press conferences hijacked by questions about the investigations in recent months.

De Blasio has repeatedly said he and his administration acted legally at all times.

In April, Reuters was first to report that Seabrook had invested union funds in Platinum, a midsize firm with a history of buying into controversial businesses, including two energy companies that are facing criminal charges.

Representatives for Platinum Partners did not respond to a request for comment. Lawyers for Seabrook and Huberfeld could not immediately be reached for comment.

Allegations against Seabrook

In 2013, the witness, Seabrook, a police officer and others took two trips to the Dominican Republic. There, Seabrook complained that he worked hard to invest the union's money but made none for himself, according to the criminal complaint.

It was time "Norman Seabrook got paid," he told the witness, according to the complaint.

Authorities said the witness helped orchestrate a fraud scheme in which Huberfeld promised to return half of Platinum's 20 percent commission to Seabrook as a kickback.

The witness agreed to use his own money to bribe Seabrook and at Huberfeld's suggestion created a fake invoice for New York Knicks tickets he supposedly sold to Platinum in order to get reimbursed, the complaint said.

The criminal complaint refers to a "cooperating witness" who has pleaded guilty and is helping the government. The witness initially referred Seabrook to Huberfeld and Platinum and helped arrange



Norman Seabrook GETTY IMAGES

He then brought \$60,000 in cash to Seabrook on Dec. 11, 2014, in a new \$820 Sal-

vatore Ferragamo bag he had purchased just for the handoff, according to court documents.

the bribery scheme, according to prosecutors.

A person familiar with the matter previously told Reuters that Jona Rechnitz, a New York real estate investor, introduced Seabrook to Platinum.

Rechnitz, who has contributed more than \$150,000 to efforts supported by the mayor, is at the heart of an ongoing probe looking into de Blasio's fundraising activities as well as police corruption.

Investigators have focused on Rechnitz and another businessman, Jeremy Reichberg, and whether they gave police officers gifts and trips in exchange for official favors. Several high-ranking officers have been reassigned or disciplined as a result of the probe.

Rechnitz and Reichberg had ties to de Blasio when he ran successfully for mayor in 2013, serving on his inaugural committee.

The complaint indicated that Rechnitz, who is described only as a "cooperating witness," is continuing to provide information to government investigators in the hopes of securing a reduced sentence.

Rechnitz's lawyer, Alan Levine, declined to comment on Wednesday.

The case is the latest in a string of high-profile public corruption cases brought by the office of Preet Bharara, the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, who last year secured the convictions of the legislative leaders of the state Assembly and Senate.

"I'm running out of adjectives to describe it," he said on Wednesday.

Gang bust nets 14 arrests for guns, drugs, fake credit cards

Fourteen people have been arrested on allegations of narcotics trafficking and illegal weapons possession in the Cypress Hills Houses, an NYCHA complex in East New York.

Since November 2015, the FBI, NYPD and U.S. Attorney's Office have been investigating the Back Side Crew, a local gang that took its name from the section of the Cypress Hills Houses that borders Euclid Avenue, officials reported. Some members of the gang allegedly self-identify as members of the Crips street gang.

Using telephone wiretaps, authorities were able to uncover a drug-



Cypress Hills Houses GOOGLE MAPS

trafficking operation that allegedly involved all 14 people arrested, officials added. In a five-month period, the organization distributed more than a kilo of cocaine, which was cooked into

more than 280 grams of crack cocaine distributed around the housing complex and in upstate New York.

"The scope and nature of this investigation reads like something out of a

Hollywood movie script, involving a massive drug trafficking network and deadly violence," FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Diego Rodriguez stated. "But the actions of these alleged gang members who have held a community hostage are real and have real consequences."

One of those charged, Jason Soto, 27, was also allegedly involved in a plot to kill an elderly woman by supplying her with poison-laced crack, the New York Daily News reported. Authorities contacted the woman, warning her not to take any drugs that came from Soto.

The investigation also revealed firearms

"The scope and nature of this investigation reads like something out of a Hollywood movie script."

Rodriguez

trafficking and a large-scale fraudulent credit card scheme, the U.S. Attorney's Office added. The FBI seized a FedEx package shipped by a defendant that contained more than 1,300 fraudulently manufactured credit cards that bore no names.

"The [NYPD] targeted the crime with the same precise, targeted policing that has been used in

the hundreds of arrests we have made in recent months," Police Commissioner Bill Bratton stated.

At the end of April, several law enforcement agencies worked together in New York to stage the largest gang takedown in the city's history, and another gang bust two weeks later netted an additional 30 arrests in the Bronx and Harlem.

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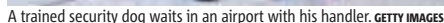
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At largest US training site, police dogs learn to sniff out attacks

New York is home to a site that trains canines to be public safety's best friends.

At a sprawling campus north of New York City, a 3-year-old German Shepherd named Johnny frantically sniffed through seats and luggage bins on an out-of-service commuter rail train trying to catch a whiff of hidden explosive.

When Johnny found a black bag with the faint scent of C-4, commonly used to blow up buildings, he sat statue-still at attention, alerting handler Kevin Pimpinelli of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police to his discovery. In return, Pimpinelli rewarded him with a prized chew toy.

"In the real world, he can find the explosive before it gets on the train," Pimpinelli said. "Our job is to try to prevent that device getting in."

Johnny is one of 50 of the transit authority's police dogs being trained at its \$13 million, 72-acre training center in Stormville, New York, about 70 miles north of New York City.

The canine training center, the biggest facility of its kind in the United States, began full operations on Wednesday and will train dogs used by police across the nation.

Amid attacks including the March bombing of a Brussels train station and airport, which killed 32 people, U.S. police agencies see highly trained dogs as key to maintaining security in large public spaces.

Their sharp sense of smell exceeds the ability of humans and machines to detect explosives and track suspects.

"The importance of this facility is growing daily because we get more threats daily," said MTA Police Lt. John Kerwick, who oversees the agency's police-dog training operations.

The dogs are carefully selected. Only about one in 30 dogs assessed at breeders are chosen for the canine police force. The dogs are mainly German Shepherds like Johnny or Belgian Malinois.

Trained sniffers

Those handpicked few are trained to detect threats such as explosives or contraband including narcotics, said David Ferland, who heads the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).

The MTA dog training facility includes rooms modeled after classrooms and bus stations, 26 kennels and a veterinary clinic. Outside, there are nine buses, ponds and train cars at the end of a retired Metro North railroad track. All are used to train the dogs.

The Stormville facility will offer initial 12-week courses where dogs learn to detect explosives and the refresher courses that dogs are required to take each month. The canines are exposed to heights, loud noises, fumes, moving vehicles and other distractions they would face on the job.

nois, high-energy breeds known for a strong desire to work.

While there is no central database tracking the number of police dogs in service in the U.S. the USPCA estimates the figure at about 10,000.

Ferland said interest in training police dogs has risen dramatically since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, evidence of a sense of urgency in combating similar threats.

"Before 9/11, there were only a handful of these training sites," Ferland said. "Now, there are training facilities an hour's drive from every major city in the U.S."

Typically they work until about the age of 10, after which they normally go on to live as pets in their primary handlers' homes.

"They're like family," said Officer Keith Flood with his 3-year-old black Shepherd-Malinois mix named Doc, after finishing a training exercise.

REUTERS

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Surveillance photo of the suspect PROVIDED

Suspected serial robber arrested after failed heist

Law enforcement's extensive search for the knife-wielding suspect included help from the FBI and lasted several months as he continued to rob area businesses.



Police have taken into custody a man whom they believe is connected to a recent robbery spree that targeted more than two dozen businesses in Queens and Long Island.

Police captured the man, who has not been publicly identified, following a Floral Park manhunt after he was spotted running through a neighborhood on Wednesday, NBC4 reported. Law enforcement's extensive search for the knife-wielding suspect included help from the FBI and lasted several months as he continued to rob area businesses.

Around 10:13 p.m. on Tuesday, the suspect allegedly attempted to rob a Dollar Tree on 14th Avenue in Whitestone, Queens, but his effort was unsuccessful as he

left with nothing, ABC7 added. Following the failed attempt, a woman questioned in connection to the incident was able to identify the suspect.

"He walks in, produces what looks like a large butcher knife that he uses on each one," NYPD Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said to ABC7. "He puts it back in his pants leg when he leaves."

The suspect left the Dollar Tree after the failed attempt in a gray vehicle that matched a car used in at least one of the other 24 robberies that he allegedly committed, NBC4 added.

"Only 30 percent of robberies get solved nationwide. Seventy percent of them get away with it," Joseph Giacalone, a retired NYPD sergeant and adjunct professor at John Jay College, told ABC7. "I don't think the public really understands how hard robberies are to solve."

Recently, the suspect was believed to be responsible for a robbery at a Subway restaurant in Forest Hills on Friday, another Subway in Oakland Gardens on Sunday and yet another Subway in Rockaway Beach on Monday, according to NBC4.

"I don't think the public really understands how hard robberies are to solve."

Giacalone

ARMED WITH BEEF JERKY

Robber holds up Bronx bodega using beef jerky

The NYPD is seeking a man in connection to a Bronx grocery store robbery last weekend.

Around 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, a man entered the Prince Deli and Grocery at 131 West Kingsbridge Road and began a verbal dispute with the store clerk, police reported. The man then grabbed the clerk from across the counter.

As he attempted to lunge

after the fleeing clerk, the robber lost his hat, then picked up a big box of beef jerky products and threw it at the employee, the New York Post stated.

After the clerk fled, the man made his way behind the counter where he removed \$250 from the register before running away, according to police.

Authorities described the robber as a black man between 160 and 170 pounds who stood approximately 5-foot-8.



Surveillance of the suspect NYPD

Anyone with information about the incident should call the NYPD Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS or, for Spanish,

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The public can also submit tips at NYPDCrimeStoppers.com.

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Clinton, Trump draw battle lines for ill-tempered campaign



Hillary Clinton

Donald Trump ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

All signs point toward a negative campaign between Clinton and Trump for five months.

Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump kicked off a fierce general election battle, with Democrats accusing Trump of erratic behavior and the Republican threatening to bring up old Clinton scandals.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, made history when she became the first woman to lead a major political party in its quest to capture the U.S. presidency. Big primary election wins on Tuesday in California and elsewhere catapulted her to victory over Democratic opponent Bernie Sanders.

If elected on Nov. 8, the 68-year-old would return the Clinton family to the White House 16 years after her husband, Bill Clinton, completed two terms as president.

The Clinton campaign drew on critical comments from Republicans themselves to portray the 69-year-old Trump as not fit for the Oval Office after the real estate developer repeatedly accused a Mexican-American judge of showing bias against him because of his ethnic heritage.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook charged Trump with a history of "erratic behavior," the same language leveled by the Obama campaign in its defeat

of Republican nominee John McCain in 2008.

Trump gave a carefully crafted primary race victory speech on Tuesday night laying out his plan of attack. To keep him from straying off message, he used a Teleprompter and avoided his typical stream-of-consciousness delivery.

Trump said money given to the Clinton Foundation charity from foreign donors has earned the Clintons millions of dollars and had a corrupting influence when Hillary Clinton was secretary of state and used a private email server to conduct official business.

"Hillary Clinton turned the State Department into her private hedge fund — the Russians, the Saudis, the Chinese — all gave money to Bill and Hillary and got favorable treatment in return. It's a sad day in America when foreign governments with deep pockets have more influence in our own country than our great citizens," Trump said.

He said he would give a speech next week "discussing all of the things that have taken place with the Clintons."

A Reuters/Ipsos poll on Tuesday showed Clinton leading Trump by 10 percentage points nationally, little changed from a week earlier.

Both Clinton and Trump have work to do to unite their parties behind them but the Democrat appeared to face the easier path with Sanders,

"The most effective thing to do with Donald Trump is just to get his words out there and let him speak for himself."

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook told CNN

a leftist senator from Vermont, nearly out of options to challenge her.

Trump has an uphill battle, with many party leaders still opposed to him. U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan described Trump's remarks about the judge as a "textbook definition of a racist comment" but said he would still support him.

Ryan met behind closed-doors on Wednesday with House Republicans. An aide said Ryan "discussed with his members the thinking behind his endorsement [of Trump] and how to move forward" and reiterated he had confidence Trump would support the House Republican agenda.

Republicans complain that Trump still engages in petty battles with former rivals and is way behind in building a fund-raising organization. Trump is to meet on Thursday in New York with top fund-raisers of the Republican National Committee, a party official said. **REUTERS**

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Israeli security forces gather at a shopping complex in Tel Aviv following a shooting attack. GETTY IMAGES

Four killed in Palestinian shooting attack in Tel Aviv; gunmen held

Two Palestinian gunmen killed at least four people at a popular shopping and restaurant area in Tel Aviv on Wednesday in an attack that sent diners, some clutching small children, running for their lives just outside Israel's Defence Ministry.

Both gunmen, identified by police as Palestinians from a village near the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, were apprehended, and one was wounded.

Security footage showed the pair, dressed in suit and tie and posing as customers at a restaurant, suddenly pull out automatic weapons and open fire, shooting one man point blank, as other diners fled.

Police said the assailants killed four people in the 9:30 p.m. (2.30 p.m. ET) assault and that six were wounded.

The attack, as families

were enjoying a balmy evening out at the trendy Sarona complex, was one of the most serious in the country's business and entertainment capital since a wave of Palestinian violence erupted eight months ago.

A lull over the past several months in what had been near-daily stabbings and shootings made the attack just meters (yards) from the sprawling defense compound surprising and was likely to bring back a sense of insecurity to Israeli streets.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, returning from a visit to Moscow, rushed directly to the Defence Ministry to assess the situation with senior ministers and security chiefs.

"I was with the family, eating pizza. We heard the shots, we didn't know what was happening, and everybody got down on

the floor. We managed to escape to a cellar," a woman, who gave her name only as Annette, told Israel's Channel 10 television.

Security personnel who guard the Sarona complex fired back.

In the last half year, Palestinian attacks have killed 31 Israelis and two visiting U.S. citizens. Israeli forces have shot dead at least 196 Palestinians, 134 of whom Israel has said were assailants. Others were killed in clashes and protests.

Tensions over Jewish access to a volatile and contested Jerusalem holy site, revered by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) and Jews as Temple Mount, have fueled the violence.

Israel says incitement in the Palestinian media and personal problems at home have been important factors spurring assailants, often teenagers, to carry out attacks. REUTERS

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Islamic State loses ground on fronts in Syria and Iraq

Islamic State's far-flung enemies in Syria and Iraq pressed ahead on Wednesday with major advances on multiple fronts that have put some of the greatest pressure on the ultra-hardline Islamists since they declared their caliphate two years ago.

A spokesman for a U.S.-backed alliance in northern Syria said it was poised to enter the city of Manbij, a week after launching an assault with the aim of cutting off the last stretch of Turkish frontier still under Islamic State control.

A short distance further west, rebels fighting against both Islamic State and the government of President Bashar al-Assad said Islamic State fighters had pulled out of an area near the border.

Assad's forces, backed by Russian airpower, also launched an offensive against Islamic State last week and have advanced

in territory further south.

At the opposite end of the self-proclaimed caliphate, 466 miles down the Euphrates River, Iraqi government forces said they had fought their way into built-up areas of Falluja, the second-biggest city in Iraq under Islamic State control and the militants' closest bastion to Baghdad.

The Iraqi government is backed both by U.S. air power and by Shi'ite militia allied to Washington's regional foe Iran.

A five-year civil war in Syria and the weakness of the Iraqi government have made it difficult for world powers and their allies on the ground to coordinate a campaign against the militants.

But the simultaneous attacks on a variety of fronts have created unprecedented pressure on the militants, who have imposed harsh rule over territory with millions of




Iraqi government forces arrest men suspected of belonging to the Islamic State. GETTY IMAGES

inhabitants while making enemies of all global and regional powers.

The campaign by a U.S.-backed alliance called the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) is the most ambitious so far waged with support of the U.S. in Syria, where Washington previously lacked effective allies on the ground.

A small contingent of U.S. special forces troops are assisting the SDF, which was formed last year to combine militarily successful Kurdish militia with Arab allies more acceptable to Washington's NATO ally Turkey. REUTERS



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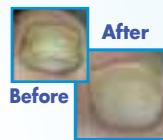
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BRIEF

Oklahoma medical examiner rules oilman McClendon's deadly crash an accident

The fiery crash that killed U.S. oilman Aubrey McClendon in March after his car hit a wall was an accident, Oklahoma's medical examiner said on Wednesday, echoing a police inquiry's findings a day earlier that there was no evidence of suicide.

The examiner said he died of "multiple blunt force trauma"



Chevy Tahoe slammed into a concrete bridge abutment on March 2. The crash happened a day after federal prosecutors indicted him for violating anti-trust laws by rigging bids

and his corpse suffered "char-ing" and "burns" after his

for oil lands.

McClendon, who failed to show up at a dinner with friends the night of the indictment, denied the charges.

Toxicology tests showed there was no alcohol in his blood at the time of the accident.

Details of the crash, in which his vehicle was driving well above the speed limit at 88 mph, stunned the U.S. energy industry.

Many executives worried McClendon, a leader of the U.S. fracking boom who was ousted in 2013 as CEO of Chesapeake Energy after a shareholder revolt, had committed suicide.

On Tuesday, Oklahoma City police said they found no emails or notes to suggest he was contemplating ending his life, but acknowledged his state of mind at the time of the crash was unknowable.

REUTERS



Brock Turner is shown in this booking photo taken Jan. 18, 2015, after his arrest for raping an unconscious woman. SANTA CLARA COUNTY SHERIFF HANDOUT

Pressure builds upon judge over Stamford sex assault case

The uproar over the sentence is part of growing outrage in the United States over sexual assault on college campuses.

Sen. Barbara Boxer on Monday decried a California judge's decision to sentence a college athlete to just six months in jail for sexual assault, and signatures on an online petition calling for the jurist's ouster later passed 400,000.

The sentence last week by Santa Clara County Judge Aaron Persky against former Stanford University swimmer Brock Turner gained international attention after a letter from the athlete's father to the judge that was posted online described the assault as "20 minutes of action."

"Six months for someone who viciously attacked a woman, especially after she was so brave to come forward, is outrageous," Boxer said in a statement.

Last week, the victim in the case read a 12-page letter to the court detailing her feelings in the wake of the assault. It was later read millions of times online. The victim's name has not been released to the public.

In the Stanford case, prosecutors said that witnesses saw Turner, 20, on top of the woman as she lay motionless outside a fraternity party in January 2015. When Turner ran

away, two students tackled and held him for police, prosecutors said.

Turner in March was convicted of intent to rape an intoxicated and unconscious person, penetration of an intoxicated person and penetration of an unconscious person. His lawyer said that he was considering appealing the conviction and had filed a notice of intent to appeal with the court.

An online petition at Change.org urging the removal of the judge had collected more than 400,000 clicks of support by Tuesday afternoon, in a largely symbolic gesture.

Stanford law professor Michele Dauber has vowed to start a formal recall effort against Persky, but that is a difficult process rarely used in California.

International interest in the case has led media organizations to request interviews with the woman, but prosecutors said on Tuesday that she wished to remain anonymous.

In a statement released by Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Alaleh Kianerci to CNN, the woman said that in addition to wanting to protect her privacy, she could better represent all women if her name and image were not known.

"I'm coming out to you simply as a woman wanting to be heard," she said in the statement to CNN. "For now I am every woman." REUTERS

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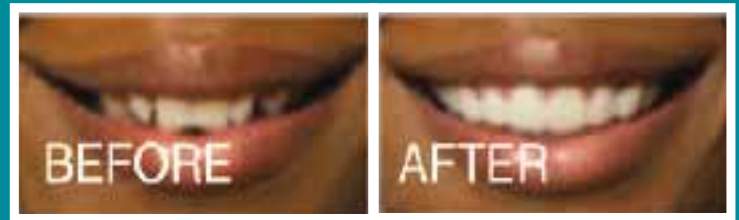
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Ali's legend floats like a butterfly through a hometown festival

A celebration of Muhammad Ali's life continued Wednesday in the late boxing champion's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, where a daylong "I Am Ali" Festival passed his legend to a new generation through stories, arts and crafts.

Craig Davidson, 45, of Louisville, brought his 15- and 11-year-old sons to the festival to pay their last respects.

"I grew up as a kid at their age watching his fights," Davidson said. "I knew about his stance during the Vietnam War. ... I just wanted them to know more about him."

Ali, whose boxing prowess, showmanship and public opposition to the Vietnam War made him one of the world's



A man leaves a note on an "I Am Ali" banner outside the Performing Arts Center to honor Muhammad Ali on Wednesday in Louisville, Kentucky. GETTY IMAGES

most famous people in the turbulent 1960s and '70s, died Friday of septic shock in an Arizona hospital. He was 74.

Plans were being finalized for the final days of mourning, including Friday's public service at the KFC Yum! Center.

Before the festival started Wednesday, fans gathered at the arena to claim tickets for the service. At least 14,000

tickets were distributed after officials released them early due to the long line of people.

The final service will include such luminaries as former President Bill Clinton and comedian Billy Crystal. Actor Will Smith, who portrayed Ali in a 2001 movie, and former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis will be among the pallbearers.

REUTERS



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Bobby Brown opens up on '20/20'

Once successful R&B star Bobby Brown let it all out in an interview with Robin Roberts on "20/20" Tuesday night. He not-so-subtly blamed the untimely death of his 22-year-old daughter Bobbi Kristina on her boyfriend, Nick Gordon ("He knows what happened") and owned up to drug use throughout his 15-year marriage to the late Whitney Houston. He also admitted he struck Houston one time while "trying to maintain sobriety," but says he isn't a "woman beater" because ... ew.

Brown, who is, unsurprisingly, in the process of promoting his tell-all autobiography, "Every Little Step," was forthcoming about Houston's drug habits, claiming, "She did drugs. They didn't do her." He also said the couple would partake in binges,



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

but were always mindful not to do drugs directly in front of their young daughter.

The 47-year-old also claimed that Houston cheated on him with Tupac and had a secret lesbian relationship with her assistant, Robyn Crawford. But it's cool: Brown said he hooked up with Madonna and Janet Jackson in the meantime. "I was not trippin'."

Also, for funsies,

Brown added that he had sex with a ghost in a mansion he bought in Georgia. "One time, I woke up, and yeah, a ghost. I was being mounted by a ghost."

Life is so exciting when you're Bobby Brown.

Ellen DeGeneres sued over 'Titi' joke



Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can lead to lawsuits — if you're Ellen DeGeneres, at least.

A Georgia real estate agent named Titi Pierce is filing a defamation lawsuit against Warner Bros. and the comedienne,

claiming "invasion of privacy, defamation and emotional distress," according to the Associated Press.

The lawsuit is the result of a segment that aired on DeGeneres' show back in February and again in April. The segment, titled "What's Wrong With These Signs?" pokes fun at storefronts, ads and signs that fans send into the show. DeGeneres used a sign for Pierce's real estate business to make a joke about breasts, mispronouncing the agent's name as "Titty Pierce" rather than the correct "Tee-tee Pierce."

The lawsuit also alleges that Pierce was subject to "ridiculing and harassing" phone calls after the producers of the show failed to blur out her cell-phone number in the segment. No one from the show has commented on the matter.

the word

Rachel Roy supposedly ran away from Beyonce

Is Rachel Roy "Becky with the Good Hair"? Do we know by now? Because honestly, it's been weeks and someone from the FBI forensics lab needs to start returning our calls.

Gathering more evidence in the "yes" column: Roy supposedly bolted from the CFDA Awards earlier this week after she heard Beyonce had arrived. The "Formation" singer attended the event to accept the secret Fashion Icon Award but Page Six reports rumors

began earlier that evening when Jay Z, Blue Ivy and Tina Knowles arrived. According to their sources, Roy split ASAP: "She just disappeared with her place card and never came back."

Still, pals of Roy's told the pub that she had to catch a flight, and the designer has sworn there's "no validity" to the reference in "Lemonade" and her alleged affair with Jay Z.



Richard Simmons is NOT becoming a woman

A rumor began circulating yesterday that fitness guru Richard Simmons was becoming a woman, instigated by a National Enquirer story that claimed he's now a "soft spoken woman named Fiona."

Simmons' rep, Tom Etsey, fired back at the allegations:

"He is not transitioning into a woman. He has decided to live



quietly the last few years. He had knee

surgery a few years ago and has a bum knee."

Over the weekend, Simmons was hospitalized, which concerned fans of the 67-year-old.

In response, Simmons assured them over Facebook that he was OK and was simply "dehydrated." He further advised: "Summer is here — drink plenty of liquids."

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In "The Conjuring 2," Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson reprise their roles as Lorraine and Ed Warren, noted paranormal psychologists seen investigating the noted Enfield haunting case of the late '70s. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Patrick Wilson doesn't do horror

But he will do it if the script is as good as the ones for the "Insidious" or "Conjuring" movies.



MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Patrick Wilson doesn't want to be a horror actor. And yet he's been in four of the most successful horror films of the last five years. The Tony-nominated actor has appeared in "Insidious" and its first sequel, plus "The Conjuring" and its new follow-up — all four directed by one person: James Wan of "Saw" and "Furious 7."

Wilson isn't likely to do horror for anyone else, especially since "The Conjuring 2" — in which he reprises his role as paranormal investigator Ed Warren, who patrols for potential ghosts along with his wife, Lorraine (Vera Farmiga) — allows

him to do very un-horror movie things, like regale some frightened children with an Elvis song.

First off, nice Elvis impersonation.

[Laughs, adopts Elvis voice] Thank you. Thank you very much.

Was that something that was in the script or did you and James Wan come up with it on the spot?

I've tried that in every movie I've been in, and no director has ever bit. [Laughs] No, that was his idea. When he came on board [for the second one], that was the first scene he wrote. I got this text randomly asking, "Do you play guitar?" I responded, [sounds suspicious] "Yes, why? What do you have in mind?"

Is this some charity benefit you want me to do for you?" I remember thinking, "OK, here we go." That shows you a lot about him. I love the fact that he's constantly trying to push the genre.

His horror movies are like that: They have real meat for the actors.

James knows how to create scares better than anyone. But he also loves character. When you think about the great horror films, there's always something else, whether it's adult drama or it's about parent-child relationships, husbands and wives, family and stress.

You want to have those character moments. You want to get invested in these relationships. Vera would say the same thing: We love playing these people. They have very human moments, and I think that's why people actually enjoy these films. That's why there's the Elvis scene, the romantic moments Ed and Lorraine have. That's the good stuff.

It is a cool portrait of a couple. You rarely see married people who are that much in love in movies.

That's true. It's nice to play, to have it. Otherwise we'd be bored. [Chuckles]

Since doing these films, do you tend to get a lot of horror scripts?

I would imagine my manager and agents do. I don't, because they know I would just turn them all down. [Laughs] If someone has the guts to say to me, "I have this horror script," it doesn't get past the "h" and I say, "I'm not interested." People will try to do it in different ways: "Well, it's more of a thriller!" Right. Sure it is.



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Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) gets a chokehold from Oscar Isaac's Apocalypse in one of the prominent posters for "X-Men: Apocalypse." TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Why being politically correct matters

Are you tired of being politically correct all the time? I hear this over and over again when I write stories about women in the geek world. One of my writers just posted a fantastic story about the "X-Men: Apocalypse" ad showing Jennifer Lawrence's Mystique being choked by Oscar Isaac's Apocalypse, and how Fox's apology wasn't enough. I've been fielding misogynist comments ever since.

"Oh, the writer must be a stupid blonde chick." Nope. It's a guy. "No one would care if it was Nightcrawler." No, because he's a guy and the statistics for violence against men aren't exactly the same as for women. "Stupid political correctness is turning us all into p—ies." Nope. We're just trying to point out the entrenched misogyny that makes

Geek Girl in Hollywood



the epidemic of violence against women acceptable.

The same day as this, there was a story about a judge who gave a rapist, Brock Turner, a six-month sentence because a longer prison term "would have a severe impact on him." His father thinks even six months is "a steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action." You cannot begin to tell me entrenched sexism isn't a problem.

Between that story and the one where the newest "Ghostbusters" ads didn't feature

a single woman from the all-female main cast, I've been dealing with people telling me I'm imagining things — that it's not that bad, that I'm overreacting.

Here's the thing about being politically correct: If all things were equal, a simple scene from the film on a poster might not be a big deal. If we weren't worrying about the rapist instead of the victim, and whether or not he gets to compete in the Olympics instead of the scars this woman will bear for the rest of her life, maybe a movie ad that erases the female leads wouldn't be a big deal. Maybe we wouldn't notice. Maybe if this were a perfect world, talking about this stuff wouldn't matter.

Well, it's not a perfect world yet. And I'm not done talking.

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Outdoor film season is on

Here's your summer movie lineup.

Linda Clarke

Summertime and the moviegoing is easy, with outdoor programs kicking off in parks and on rooftops around the city. Here's your guide to some of the biggest hits under the stars — find the full lineup at Metro.us.

Haven Rooftop Summer Movie Series

Theme: Classic American feature films from the '80s to the 'Aughts, many with a summer theme. For two weeks in August, a screening of the 2016 Summer Olympics will replace the movie.

Location: 132 W. 47th St. & Seventh Ave.

Amenities: Food and drinks available for purchase, or pay \$30 for two specialty cocktails, truffle fries and popcorn

Tickets & Time: Free; movies start at 7:30 p.m.

Highlights: June 20: "The Goonies," Aug. 1: "Cool Runnings," Aug. 22: "The Waterboy"

Death Ave.'s Monday Movies

Theme: Classics and cult classics

Location: 315 10th Ave. & 28th St., Chelsea

Amenities: Admission includes comfy seating and passed appetizers

Tickets & Time: From \$88 per couple; seating begins at 7 p.m., movie starts at 8 p.m.

Highlights: June 13: "A Streetcar Named Desire," July 11: "Bonnie & Clyde," Aug. 15: "The Big Lebowski"



Rooftop Cinema Club PROVIDED

Hudson River Park RiverFlicks

Theme: Big Hit Wednesdays include last year's box office blockbusters and may be rated R; Family Fridays are all-ages

Location: Wednesday at Pier 63 lawn, West 23rd St., Fridays at Pier 46, Charles Street

Amenities: Free popcorn

Tickets & Time: Free, weather permitting; films start at dusk (8:30 p.m.)

Highlights: July 6: "Mad Max: Fury Road" (Pier 63), July 21: "Grease" Sing-Along Special (Clinton Cove at West 55th Street), Aug. 19: "The Princess Bride" (Pier 46)

Movies Under the Stars

Theme: Movies range from noir to comedy, mostly family-friendly

Location: Screenings take place in public parks throughout Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn

Amenities: Varied

Tickets & Times: Free; movies start at dusk

Highlights: June 9: "Wreck-It Ralph" (Claremont Park, Bronx), June 14: "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (Carroll Park, Brooklyn), June 25: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (Coffey Park, Brooklyn)

(continued on page 26)

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(continued from page 25)

Syfy Movies with a View

Theme: American classics dating from the 1930s to now (not just sci-fi)
Location: Pier 1, Harbor View Lawn, Brooklyn Bridge Park
Amenities: Valet your bike for free with Transportation Alternatives; food vendors set up close by
Tickets & Times: Free; Thursdays, with music beginning at 6 p.m. and movies at sunset
Highlights: July 7: "Singin' in the Rain," Aug. 4: "American Graffiti," Aug. 18: "A League of Their Own"

Summer Screen

Theme: American mainstream movies and cult classics; audience votes on the final film
Location: McCarren Park, North 12th St. & Bedford Ave., Brooklyn
Amenities: Live music precedes the movie and local food and drink vendors dot the park
Tickets & Time: Free; music at 6 p.m., movies start around 8 p.m.
Highlights: July 7: "Scream," July 27: "10 Things I Hate About You," Aug. 3: "The Royal Tenenbaums"

Rooftop Film Club

Theme: Blockbusters to classics to cult favorites
Locations: Yotel, 570 10th Ave., Hell's Kitchen; Office Ops, 57 Thames St., Brooklyn
Amenities: Yotel tickets include a glass of Champagne and popcorn. Office Ops is BYO. Headphones and seating provided at both venues
Tickets & Times: Yotel: \$30, 6 p.m. Sun.-Wed.; Brooklyn: \$17, 6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
Note: Schedules will roll out at the start of every month
Highlights: June 13: "Coming to America" (Office Ops), June 15: "Jurassic Park" (Yotel), June 28: "Dirty Dancing" (Ops)

Listings**MUSIC****Jazz Age Lawn Party**

June 11-12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Colonels Row, Governors Island
 \$55+, jazzagelawnparty.com
 Summer's officially in full swing when the Jazz Age Lawn Party returns. This weekend, toss on your best 1920s-inspired outfit and make a day of listening to Michael Arenella and His Dreamland Orchestra, learning new dance moves and, of course, photo ops. Food trucks and St-Germain cocktails will fuel the party.

POP CULTURE**One Crazy Summer Video Dance Party**

June 10, 11 p.m.
 Littlefield, 622 Degraw St.
 \$5, ticketfly.com
 The summer of 1986 changed the pop culture lexicon with "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Labyrinth" and so many others that Music Video Time Machine is celebrating them all. Dance to the best of '80s music videos and movie trailers; dress as your favorite character for the In-Character Lip Sync Challenge. EVA KIS

BOOKS**'What Is a Witch'**

June 10, 7:30-11 p.m.
 Catland Books
 987 Flushing Ave., Brooklyn
 \$28, atlasobscura.com
 Haunting and lyrical, "What Is

A Witch" isn't your usual comic book so the Obscura Society is holding a unique launch party with spiked punches, harp music, tarot card readers and sensuous dancing. Author Pam Grossman will tie it all back to the power of the feminine mystique.

WHIMSY**The Cucumber Festival of Wonder**

June 11-12, 4-10 p.m.
 Pier 97, Hudson River Park
 Free with RSVP, must be 21+, cucumberday.com
 If gin is your thing, lock down your two-hour visit to the Cucumber Festival of Wonder. Hendrick's brings its steampunk-inspired aesthetic to Pier 97 with carnival-inspired attractions, cocktails made in roving machines and paired bites. EVA KIS

ARTS**Makers Market**

June 11, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Metropolitan Pavilion
 123 W. 18th St., Second Floor
 Free, sva.edu
 Glimpse the future of jewelry making, interior design, graphic

media at this show featuring works by graduates of the School of Visual Arts. Part showroom, part bazaar, the Makers Market brings together over 50 vendors — and it's free to check it out and shop.

FITNESS**OutdoorFest**

June 11-19
 Multiple locations
 Free-\$65, outdoorfest.com
 Find out what's waiting for you in the great outdoors right in your backyard over 10 days of activities like urban mountain biking and oyster restoration. This weekend features a group campout on Staten Island (with survival training, yoga, stargazing and games).

LUAU**Hawaiian Airlines Liberty Challenge**

June 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Hudson River Park's Pier 26
 Free, libertyoutrigger.org
 A traditional Polynesian festival takes over Pier 26 as part of the outrigger race, with music, dancing, food trucks, a beer garden and a sunset luau. T. MICHELLE MURPHY



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**FOOD****Big Apple Barbecue Block Party**

June 11-12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Madison Square Park,
 Free-\$275, bigapplebbq.org
 Pitmasters from Texas, Missouri, Tennessee and beyond brings their grills to Manhattan for this annual tour of barbecue styles. The event will also have beer, cocktails and desserts (fried pie, anyone?) Entry is free, and each heaping plate costs \$10, cash or credit. Or spring for a fastpass (\$125), good for you and a +1; VIPs (\$275) get an open bar. Both passes include a \$100 food and drink credit. EVA KIS

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In the middle of an urban jungle, sometimes you need to find a moment of peace and quiet. Some parks are major attractions in their own right and offer more than just a place to take a break. These destinations give new meaning to "urban oasis."

Royal Botanic Gardens

Melbourne, Australia
Picturesque vistas and colorful tropical fauna make Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens one of the world's most stunning city parks. Spread over almost 100 acres, the gardens feature peaceful lakes and a diverse collection of 50,000 plants. Visitors can get an up-close look at camellias, cacti,



Ibirapuera Park GETTY IMAGES

roses, cycads and exotic plants from southern China. The gardens are also home to native black swans and bellbirds, and you can scope out cockatoos and kookaburras on guided nature tours.

Ibirapuera Park

São Paulo
Often compared to New York City's Central Park,

Ibirapuera Park is São Paulo's center of activity and recreation. Initially built in 1954 to commemorate the city's 400th anniversary, the park includes several buildings designed by renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer.

Forest Park

St. Louis
It's easy to spend an

entire day in Forest Park. Located on the outskirts of downtown St. Louis, the park boasts 1,300 verdant acres and five major cultural institutions, including an art museum, outdoor ice rink and city zoo.

Stanley Park

Vancouver
Few places compare to

Vancouver's Stanley Park: The 1,000-acre wilderness park is footsteps from downtown and attracts a regular crowd of locals and tourists. Visitors can walk, cycle or Rollerblade along a seawall, or enjoy outdoor theater and cultural performances during the warmer summer months. Don't miss the park's forest trails and lakes.

Villa Doria Pamphili

Rome
As the largest landscaped public park in the city, Villa Doria Pamphili delights visitors with its elaborate architecture and intricate gardens. Originally the estate of a noble family, the expansive grounds feature neatly manicured gardens with clipped hedges and fountains. Wide gravel pathways are perfect for jogging, and antique statues and vases hearken back to an earlier era.

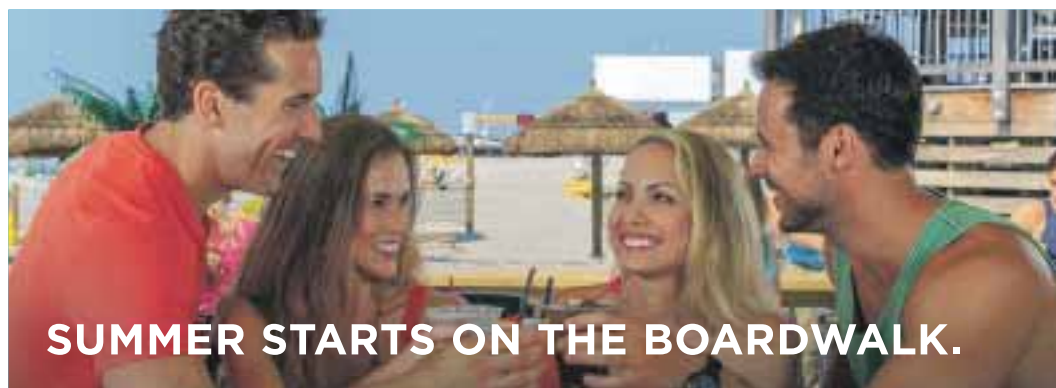
Hibiya Park

Tokyo
Located in the heart of Tokyo is Hibiya Park, the city's green oasis. Originally the palace grounds of a feudal lord, the park has since transformed into a bustling cultural center and peaceful urban retreat. Visitors can enjoy musical performances in open-air concert halls or take a stroll through year-round blooming gardens.

Balboa Park

San Diego
Stepping into Balboa Park feels a little like entering the pages of a storybook. Explore Florida Canyon's rustic desert landscape or walk eastward to see the park's well-tended rose garden. The California Building, the park's 200-foot tower, features a majestic blue-tiled dome and a 100-carillon bell that tolls the hour.

EMILY WASSERMAN



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RACHEL RACZKA

The Porches at MASS MoCA PROVIDED

We asked Jodi Joseph, the communications director at MASS MoCA, the converted factory-cum-contemporary art museum in North Adams, for her picks for a perfect two-day escape into the mountains.

Unsurprisingly, Joseph suggests the Porches Inn at MASS MoCA, but it's for good reason. The trendy row house-

WTF's small stage, the Nikkos." **The Barrington Stage and Chester Theater** have hot tickets this summer for theater junkies of all ages. "But the best music show of the summer might just be **Dolly Parton at Tanglewood!**"

The Berkshires are full of innovative local makers dishing out goodies to stock your picnic basket as well as your fridge at home. Joseph recommends award-winning cheeses from **Williamstown's Cricket Creek Farm**, fermented goodies in flavors like gochu curry or kimchi from **Housatonic's Hosta Hill Kraut** and bags of artisanal granola from **Great Barrington's BOLA**.

“The best dinner spot in the county is the **Dream Away Lodge**,” says Joseph. “Where else does your meal come with live music every night, a roaring fire pit, bath-room art gallery, garden labyrinth and woodland ballroom — all at the top of a mountain bordering a state with over 16,000 acres

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of forest?"

Or: "If they're full, the other best dinner spot in the county is **Bascom Lodge** at the top of Mount Greylock, where the prix fixe menu changes nightly and on Wednesdays comes with an edifying talk, walk or film. Spend the night so you can wake up with one of their freshly baked blueberry muffins."

Catching a dinner-time show at Tanglewood and need a killer sandwich to-go? “Everyone knows the best takeaway is at **Guido’s Fresh Marketplace** in Pittsfield and Great Barrington,” says Joseph.

"The gift shop at **The Berkshire Botanical Garden** in Housatonic is one of the most fabulous, with its distinctly Berkshire flavor," says Joseph. "I'm also a fan of **Local** in Lenox, **Mad Macs** for gadgets and **Baldwin General Store** in West Stockbridge for things you haven't yet imagined you need.

"I also always find great things at **Seeds**, especially jewelry, and **One Mercantile**. No trip to the Berkshires is complete without a stop at the **Pine Cone Hill outlet store**."

And don't forget to tip your local farmer: "All that said — the best 'shopping' might be at roadside, honor-system farm stands."

[illegible]

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Knicks could take a chance on Love



The Knicks will be one of the teams interested if Kevin Love is on the block this summer. GETTY IMAGES

Love hurts

Love did not play in Game 3 of the NBA Finals last night after he suffered a concussion in Game 2 this past Sunday. According to ESPN, Love tried to convince Cavs officials that he was good enough to play but the team's medical staff did not clear him.

Hip Arthritis Pain? Can Newest Medical Treatments Help Avoid Surgery?

If you suffer with painful hip arthritis and want medical options to surgery — science may have finally found the possible solution you've been looking for.

Here is why: Arthritis develops from failure of internal cells of the joint to produce Synovial Fluid which cushions the joint. Then, wear-and-tear over time can cause the joint to "dry out" and grind down the protective cartilage leading to pain, inflammation and immobility. Let it go too long and your only option may be complete surgical replacement of the hip.

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joint — always with the use of a advanced medical imaging - it is like putting oil on a rusty door hinge. It cushions the joint and can decrease pain and promote healing. This is not cortisone and has no side effects. For some, results can be dramatic and last for months - if not longer. *The earlier you treat the hip, the better chance it can help you.*

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And the great news is: You can find out if you are a candidate for this advanced medical procedure with our No-Obligation Risk-Free Hip Pain Screening at Downtown NYC Medical. To find out more and schedule your free screening appointment, simply call 800-879-7343

Change will occur if the Cavs fall to the Warriors in the Finals.



MATT BURKE
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matthew.burke@metro.us

The second the final horn sounded at Oracle Arena on Memorial Day, Kevin Durant's free agency became trending topic No. 1 in NBA circles. Talk of the actual Finals was a distant No. 2.

It's hot stove season for the fans of the 28 NBA teams that aren't playing basketball right now, and odd as it is to say — the Warriors and Cavaliers aren't really in the conversation. Yet.

If the Cavaliers do lose the series to Golden State like they look like they're going to, they will immediately become the most intriguing team around. LeBron still has that promise to fulfill to "the Land," so we'll give him the benefit of the doubt and say that he stays put. Ditto for Kyrie Irving. But Kevin Love, the third wheel of this operation, will immediately be floated in every trade scenario imaginable. LeBron and the Cavs' brass will want to find pieces that fit better

in their scheme than Love, even if that means selling off the proverbial dollar for four quarters.

Two places, in particular, look like great landing spots for Love if things go south for Cleveland in the next week or so.

Knicks

The Ringer's Jonathan Tjarks touched on a potential Carmelo Anthony for Love swap on Tuesday, and — like he said — it makes great sense for both New York and Cleveland.

"It almost makes too much sense for it not to happen," Tjarks wrote. "The 27-year-old Love embeds within Kristaps Porzingis' timetable in New York better than the 32-year-old Anthony, and it's not clear how a rebuilding Knicks team will be able to contend in the remaining years of Carmelo's prime."

Celtics

Love has been rumored to the Celtics since like 2004. Danny Ainge's man crush on Love is well-known as the Celtics have held consistent interest in acquiring him. The C's made a run at Love as recently as February's

trade deadline.

"If [the Cavs lose in the Finals] again, I'd bet big on Love being elsewhere — a split that might end up the best thing for everyone," ESPN's Zach Lowe wrote a few months back. "Cleveland and Boston had trade talks for Love at the deadline, though they died with Boston offering a low-ball package the Cavs wouldn't consider, according to several league sources. Even if Boston's interest has faded, someone will call Cleveland about Love around the draft. [Andrew] Wiggins has more trade value than Love now, but that deal was the right move at the time."

The Cavs may very well reconsider that "low ball" offer as they will want to make change for LeBron's ... er ... change sake. Obtaining a defensive-oriented guard like the Celtics' Marcus Smart and/or Avery Bradley would boost the Cavs' chances of finally taking down Golden State and the Splash Bros. Remember that the Celtics nearly went 2-0 against the Warriors this past season.

Boston would obviously need to give up more, but it has the draft picks to spare.

GRAB THESE PROSPECTS BEFORE THEIR DEBUTS

KYLE BISHOP

OPINION

Kyle Bishop is a lead MLB columnist at RotoBall.com. His articles and Fantasy Baseball Rankings are your secret weapon for winning fantasy leagues.



With Tuesday's announcement that the Pirates will finally promote top pitching prospect Jameson Taillon, fantasy owners may be wondering who's next — and whether they're worth a roster spot. Here are some names to keep an eye on in the coming weeks. Obviously, in any competitive dynasty league, these guys are long gone, but they should be widely available in most other formats.

Alex Bregman, 3B/SS, Houston Astros

As recently as two weeks ago, Bregman had as many homers (10) as strikeouts on the season.



Take a close look at Houston's Alex Bregman. GETTY IMAGES

He's since fallen off that pace a bit, but is still walking more often than he whiffs. He currently has a .301/.409/.583 line at Double-A. Chosen second overall in last year's amateur draft, Bregman has been seeing some time at third base in Corpus Christi since the Astros happen to have last season's Rookie of the Year entrenched at short. Luis Valbuena has been better lately, but Houston's climbing back into the AL West race and could view Bregman as a potential upgrade. He has excellent contact skills, controls

the strike zone well, and boasts a nice blend of power and speed. Stash in all but the shallowest leagues.

Willson Contreras, C, Chicago Cubs

Catchers who can hit for average are a rare commodity, and Contreras has followed up his 2015 batting title at Double-A with an even better performance at Triple-A this season. The 24-year-old is hitting .346/.439/.592 at Iowa,

because the Cubs don't have enough young talent in their organization. The big club has, of course, steamrolled the rest of MLB this season, in spite of a lack of production from the veteran backstop tandem of Miguel Montero and David Ross. Montero is signed through next season and Ross serves as Jon Lester's personal catcher, so Contreras may not be promoted unless an injury occurs. If it does however, he's immediately interesting by virtue of the sad state of affairs behind the plate for fantasy production in 2016. Stash in deep, NL-only, and two-catcher leagues.

Alex Reyes, SP, St. Louis Cardinals

Reyes has a blazing fastball and excellent curve, which is how he's posted gaudy strikeout totals at every stop as he's risen through the minor league ranks. He's only 21 years old and has 78 strikeouts in fewer than 50 innings across two levels so far in 2016. Unfortunately, he has also struggled to limit free passes, at least in part due to issues with his delivery. Reyes' mechanics are inconsistent and the violence of his arm action could make him prone to injury. He may profile better as a reliever, and that's exactly how the Cards seem to like easing their pitching prospects into the major leagues (Adam Wainwright and Carlos Martinez being prime examples). Stash in deep and NL-only leagues.

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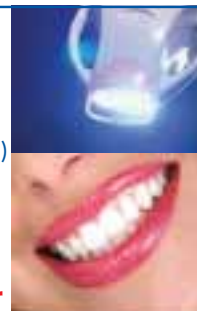


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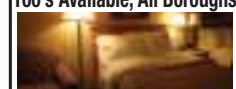
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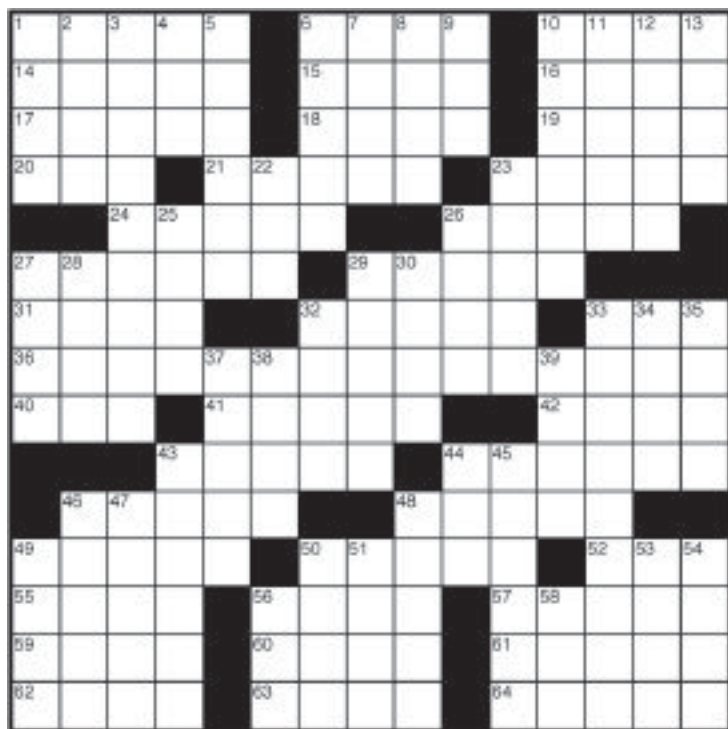
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Across

- 1 Bactrian
- 6 — dunk
- 10 Nose stimulus
- 14 I give up!
- 15 Cronyn of "Cocoon"
- 16 Count on
- 17 Is way cool
- 18 Beside oneself
- 19 Edit out
- 20 Forensic science tool
- 21 Digs
- 23 Long distance haulers
- 24 River or wine
- 26 Indifferent
- 27 Glossy fabric
- 29 Mover's rental (hyph.)
- 31 Radius companion
- 32 Beeper
- 33 Eur. airline
- 36 Short on cash (3 wds.)
- 40 Sleet-covered
- 41 Wedding-cake layers
- 42 Blah
- 43 "The Prisoner of —"
- 44 Flew low
- 46 Altiplano ruminant
- 48 Gold-orange gem
- 49 Water conduits
- 50 Yet to come
- 52 Scamp
- 55 All, in combos
- 56 Explorer — Heyerdahl

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/games

- 8 Cookie man
- 9 Actress — Ryan
- 10 Trial
- 11 Considers
- 12 Kukla's pal
- 13 Deli loaves
- 22 Motel of yore
- 23 Losing streak
- 25 Recover
- 26 Empty
- 27 Whirling dervish
- 28 Baldwin of films
- 29 Infra opposite
- 30 Mocking laughs
- 32 Long in the tooth
- 33 Flashiest
- 34 Peak
- 35 Lean-to
- 37 Account entries
- 38 1492 caravel
- 39 Chichen — (Mayan ruins)
- 43 More wacky
- 44 Jungle crusher
- 45 Latest news
- 46 Lhasa monks
- 47 Ronstadt or Hunt
- 48 Pithy
- 49 Lose hair
- 50 Mariner's hello
- 51 Bumper-sticker word
- 53 Fr. miss
- 54 Pod contents
- 56 Lunar New Year
- 58 — Moines

Down

- 1 Whey opposite
- 2 Erelong
- 3 Paul of the Fab Four
- 4 Antlered animal
- 5 Mann or Nielsen
- 6 Fountain treat
- 7 Winter Olympics event

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easy

8	9			6		1	2
				9		6	3
			4				
2				6		3	7
3			9	2	8		6
	6	4		1			9
					3		
1	7			8			
6	3		2			5	7

hard

1	7		8				
3		6		7	4	8	5
	5		3				
6				3		9	1
4		5		6			8
					3		5
9		1	5	2		4	7
					1		8
							3

metro.us/horoscopes



Aries A trip will help you more clearly see a situation you face. A partnership can be adjusted to improve communication and cooperation. Romance will improve your day.



Taurus You cannot buy love or use emotional manipulation to get your way. Youngsters will try your patience and arguments will not solve matters. Learn from past mistakes.



Gemini If something doesn't seem right, you need to ask questions. Don't be a follower, or you will end up being used. Home and personal improvements will boost your confidence.



Cancer Don't let the unexpected changes going on around you cause stress and worry. Go about your business and follow your chosen path. Trust in your imagination and don't fear being unique.



Leo Think twice before you share your opinion. Not everyone will agree, putting you in a compromising position. Put more effort into self-preservation, health and appearance.



Virgo Refuse to let anyone force you to make a premature decision on an issue. Use your intelligence to turn any situation you face to your favor.

Yesterday's answers



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Libra Don't hold back. If you believe in something, speak up and share your thoughts. Your passion and deliberate actions will help bring about compelling change.



Scorpio Don't feel the need to work with just anyone. If you carefully consider with whom you want to collaborate, you will find the road to victory without delay.



Sagittarius You'll be intrigued by an offer. Before you put your trust in someone, make sure the ideas presented are sound. Traveling and making new acquaintances will do you good.



Capricorn An opportunity to make money or expand a project will need your undivided attention. Pull in people from your past to help you turn your dream into reality.



Aquarius Say little and do a lot. Being observant and objective will help you alleviate trouble. Upgrades to your home, relationships or physical appearance will lift your spirits.



Pisces Take a short trip and interact with people you can learn from. Don't let anyone treat you poorly. Speak up and take action. It's up to you to initiate personal change. **EUGENIA LAST**

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